



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

The Director-General

Brussels,
MOVE B2/KO/rg

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Your Excellency,

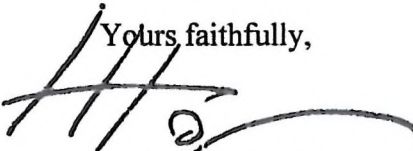
At the meeting of the International Working Group on Land Transport Security (IWGLTS) on 11 May, the representatives from Belgium announced plans of the Belgian government to introduce a law on passenger name records for international transport that would cover all modes, including international transport by coach and high speed rail.

The ability of citizens to move freely and with ease between different Member States is one of the most prominent achievements of the European Union and an important prerequisite for businesses to be able to make full use of the benefits of the internal market.

Belgium lies at the heart of the Single European Rail Area. A number of important high speed lines run through its territory, linking citizens and businesses in several EU Member States. The European Commission has been working for many years on facilitating cross-border rail transport by improving rail interoperability, investing EU-funds in international high speed rail infrastructure and creating a common market for transport services.

A requirement to collect passenger name records is likely to have a profound impact on railway and coach operations, including on operations and stations outside the Belgian territory, in particular if this requirement were to be accompanied by systematic controls of passports or identity cards.

I would therefore like to ask you to share and discuss possible plans to introduce PNR requirements with the European Commission ahead of their adoption so that we can jointly assess their practical impact on the Single European Rail Area and international coach travel, including the equal treatment of operators, and to ensure they do not conflict with the rules under the Schengen Borders Code on the lifting of controls at internal borders.

Yours faithfully,

Henrik HOLLEI